Workers of the World, Unite !

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SWP Wins Fight in Michigan To Restore Party on Ballot

Truman Demands Anti-Strike Power For Use In Steel

By Harry Frankel

The 650,000 basic steel workers on strike for a better contract and pay increases face the threat of government intervention in a new form. The exact method to be used against the CIO United Steelworkers of America is now being debated by Truman and Congress. The aim of the projected government action is to force the workers back to work without a contract, and rob them of their strike weapon.

The Truman-Congress debate is no more than a political squabble. Administration forces, while seeking to halt the strike, would like to appear before the nation's workers as "pro-labor" while doing so. Anti-administration forces feel that if they can get Truman to use the Taft-Hartley Law, this would be a political victory for them. The argument is sharpened by the approaching Presidential election.

Thus the handful of steel monopolists can't lose in this debate. Both Democrats and Republicans are out to halt the strike without granting the union's demands. **In sharp contrast, the other party to the dispute, the 1,100,000 member steel union, does not have single representative in Congress who can defend labor's side.**

Truman's June 10 address to Congress, asking steel seizure power, shows that his basic objective is no different from that of the Congress majority which wants him to use the Taft-Hartley injunction. He opened his talk by saying:

"On the same day (June 2, the day the Supreme Court overruled Truman's seizure), a strike was called and most of the steel industry was shut down. Thus, the situation that I had sought to avoid was brought about."

BOASTS ABOUT ROLE

Then Truman went on to boast about his work in the steel situation: "I had managed to keep steel production going from the end of December to the second of June — a period of more than 150 days — even though the companies and the union had no collective bargaining contract."

This is a revealing bit of bragging. Truman is here defending his course of action before the steel companies and Congress by saying in effect: "I kept the workers on the job without permitting them any gain in wages or contract conditions for over 150 days, almost twice the waiting period under the Taft-Hartley Act, by my method. Why don't you permit me to continue?"

Truman went on: "I have said repeatedly that the ultimate and proper settlement of this matter can be achieved only be agreemen between the parties. Consequently, I have sought at every opportunity to help bring about such a settlement."

TEST OF STRENGTH REQUIRED

An agreement between two parties who have opposite interests can only be brought about by a test of strength between them. The steelworkers can exert their strength only through a strike. All the overwhelming weight of evidence and argument that the union presented in the many weeks of testimony before Truman's Wage Stabilization Board did not do a bit of good so far as "convincing" the steel companies is concerned.

However, Truman prevented a strike, as he boasts. Thus, the "efforts to bring about . . . an agreement" of which Truman speaks, were made under Truman-

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I. Beinin Heads Anti-War Slate of SWP in Illinois

Irving Beinin, Illinois State Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, will be a candidate for Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois, it was announced this week by the Chicago local of the SWP.

In announcing Beinin's candidacy, Frank Roberts, SWP campaign manager stated that "Beinin's campaign will be the means by which the workers of Illinois can ally themselves with the national Presidential campaign of Farrell Dobbs and Grace Carlson, anti-war banner-bearers for the SWP."

The petition campaign to put Beinin on the Congressional ballot began last week-end with a mobilization that gathered 5,200 signatures in two days. This fine response indicates the campaign will meet with a very good reception from Chicago workers.

Restrictive election laws in Illinois, plus the presence of Law 1030 until last week, made it impossible for the SWP to place its presidential ticket on the state ballot in 1952. Nomination of Irving Beinin by the SWP will give workers all over the city a chance to protest the war drive of American imperialism.

Irving Beinin, a sheet metal worker by trade and long active in the labor movement and in defense of Negro rights, ran for Alderman in the 5th District of Chicago in 1951.

Trucks Act Menace Remains

An Editorial

Removal of the ban against the electoral rights of the Socialist Workers Party in Michigan and certification of the Party to the November presidential Ballot marks a signal victory for civil rights in the state.

This set-back for the witch-hunters was achieved by mobilization of a broad united front of the labor and liberal movement.

The Michigan CIO showed by its stand against the Trucks police state law that it realizes that the blows directed first against minority parties are in reality aimed at the whole labor movement.

But this victory is not a complete one by any means. The Trucks Act is still on the books. Only one of its repressive features has been temporarily suspended. Its most dangerous provisions are still a threat.

Members of parties arbitrarily listed as subversive by the Michigan Attorney General must register or face heavy penalties. Provisions to force self-incrimination by witnesses, and imposing severe prison sentences for refusal to give stool-pigeon information are still inscribed on the statute books. A broad anti-sabotage section in this law, designed to be used against strikers, confronts labor with a sinister threat.

Court fights to test the constitutionality of this law are in process. It is now necessary both in Michigan and nationally, for all labor and liberal organizations to rally behind these court fights, and to continue the broadest possible united front campaign against this totalitarian law until it has been declared unconstitutional.

ILLINOIS COURT VOIDS LAW 1030; RULING HAILED AS VICTORY BY SWP

By Marjorie Ball

Ghetto law 1030 has been declared invalid by the Illinois State Supreme Court. Once again petitioners may cross county lines to solicit signatures for state-wide offices. This decision on the Progressive Party suit came while the Socialist Workers Party was preparing its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The favorable ruling of the Illinois Supreme Court in your suit to invalidate H.B. 1030 represents a victory for civil rights in Illinois," said Irving Beinin, Socialist Workers Party state chairman, in a letter to the Progressive Party.

Much attention had been focused on the undemocratic character of this law by the efforts of the Citizens Committee Against Law 1030, a committee of leading liberals and trade unionists which publicized and solicited funds for the Socialist Workers Party case.

The trade union movement responded to their appeal with resolutions and funds. Campus Committees Against Law 1030, formed on both the University of Chicago and Roosevelt Campuses, organized student protest against the law. Together the committees sponsored a big dance which raised funds for the SWP case.

STEVENSON BACKERS CONDEMN LAW

Efforts of the Socialist Workers Party and the Citizens Committee Against Law 1030 to center a spotlight on this law, passed in secrecy by the reactionary state legislature and liberal Governor Adlai Stevenson, were highly successful. Even such an organization as the Independent Voters of Illinois (Illinois affiliate of Americans for Democratic Action) which supports Stevenson had to condemn the law which he signed.

Stories of the SWP's fight were carried by UP and AP wires and printed in many downstate papers.

After the adverse decision of the federal court, the **Chicago Daily Sun-Times** demanded in an editorial that **"No matter what happens in the courts, the present (election) laws should be repealed by the state legislature."**

BASIS FOR COLLABORATION

The decision of the State Supreme Court constitutes a setback to the witch-hunt drive. As Beinin pointed out in his letter to the Progressive Party, "The previous exchange of correspondence about our proposal for united action and mutual support of our cases revealed a basis for collaboration against such undemocratic legislation. It was not realized in this particular fight. **But the struggle against the witch-hunt is not over. Attacks in the future should be met with further steps toward collaboration and joint action."**

Battle of Koje Island
See "Notebook of an Agitator" on Page 2

Massacre of the PWs
By ART PREIS
See Page 3

Presidential Candidate Dobbs Calls for Continued Battle To Erase Police-State Law

By Farrell Dobbs
SWP Presidential Candidate

DETROIT — The Socialist Workers Party has been certified to the Michigan ballot for the November elections.

This action, reported in the daily papers, marks an important victory over state officials in their attempts to suppress political opponents under the Trucks Act. It will help stimulate public support in the fight to completely wipe out this police-state law.

Official notice of the certification came in a registered letter, dated June 4, from Secretary of State Alger to Howard Lerner, SWP state chairman.

"Having this day been advised by the Attorney General that we are now restrained by federal court action from enforcing the provisions of the Trucks Act," Alger wrote, "and acting upon his advice that the name of your party be permitted to appear on the November 4, 1952 ballot until final determination is made on the federal court case now pending, I am rescinding my previous action.

"The name of the Socialist Workers Party, in view of the foregoing, will be permitted to be placed upon the November 4, 1952 ballot and you are hereby officially advised."

Alger's "previous action" had been to rule the SWP off the ballot on the pretext of an arbitrary assertion by Attorney General Millard that the party is "subversive under the meanings" of the Trucks law.

The federal court restraining order Alger refers to was issued in the Communist Party suit over a month ago. Yet Millard and Alger persisted in their refusal to put the SWP on the ballot, although all provisions of the election laws had been met.

They yielded on the ballot issue only when compelled to do so under pressure of the SWP suit in Wayne county circuit court attacking the entire Trucks law, as unconstitutional.

FARRELL DOBBS

At the same time an official agreement was reached that none of the provisions of the Trucks law will be enforced pending a final determination of its constitutionality by the courts.

Argument will not be heard by Judge Lila Neuenfelt in the SWP suit before a decision has been made by the three-judge federal court in the Communist Party case.

This decision may be handed down toward the end of June. The next steps in the legal fight will be determined by the nature of the three-judge ruling.

A vital supplement to the

(Continued on page 4)

Eisenhower Unveils Platform Of Political-Military Reaction

The Eisenhower legend, so many years in the making by Big Business, has been considerably tarnished as a result of the Five-Star General's first public speech at Abilene, Kansas. This and the initial press interviews have sufficed to disclose the reactionary political general behind the publicized grin.

Taft's rival has revealed himself to be a rock-ribbed reactionary, a latter-day champion of "rugged individualism," a throwback to the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover school of politics. But with this difference — that Eisenhower combines political reaction with the authoritarian attitude of a militarist.

Much as his heart bleeds for the oppressed minorities, he lost no time in solidarizing himself with the Southern Bourbons, Jim Crowers and lynchers. The FEPC and similar federal legislation, declared Eisenhower, would constitute "punitive" legislation.

This is in complete harmony with his previously expressed views on social security, which, in his eyes, is attainable only by slaves or jail birds. **"If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison,"** he said in 1950 before the St. Andrews Society of New York.

EISENHOWER "PHILOSOPHY"

"I am a fanatical devotee of democracy," Eisenhower has repeatedly avowed. To this "democrat" the supreme "human right" is that of private property. "When that falls all else falls with it," he told a group of executives in September 1948. This is the heart of his "philosophy."

Most ironical are Eisenhower's diatribes against the danger of bureaucratism, its growth in the U.S., etc. His entire conscious life has been spent as a member of the most hardened bureaucratic formation in American life — the military caste, whose ominous growth and power he has consciously promoted.

GENERAL EISENHOWER

In an unguarded moment in 1948, Eisenhower said that "nothing in the international or domestic situation especially qualifies for the most important office in the world (i.e., the office of President) a man whose adult years have been spent in the country's military forces. At least this is true in my case."

Political ambition has changed all that. This political general is now making his bid for power in order to drag this country all the more rapidly along the road to military dictatorship and World War III.

AFL DEMANDS 11% WAGE BOOST

The American Federation of Labor June 4 demanded the WSB approve a nationwide 11% wage boost on grounds that workers should be compensated for productivity increases in the past two years.

Two Years of the Korea Slaughter

By Joseph Andrews

Two years of "Operation Killer" in Korea presents a grisly preview of what imperialism holds in store for humanity as it drives toward World War III.

To stem the tide of colonial revolt and the socialist struggle for emancipation from capitalism, Wall Street and its Pentagon butchers will stop at nothing.

On Koje island the barbaric massacre of prisoners of war herded behind barbed wire is an act of enraged rulers determined to drown the revolutionary spirit of the Asian people in their own blood.

Millions of Koreans have been slaughtered, whole villages and cities incinerated by napalm bombs. From June 25, 1950, to this very day, imperialism has been systematically destroying Korea. Rather than allow the Korean revolution to achieve the independence of that nation, to drive out the landlords and erect a new society, American capitalism is exterminating the people and laying waste their land.

This counter-revolutionary war has been "limited." But that is only for the time being.

If imperialism has its way the earth will soon be engulfed in the flames of global war. To impose the rule of the dollar against rule by the people, the U.S. atom-imperialists will find themselves compelled to try to put all humanity into stockades, like those on Koje.

Not only in Korea, but throughout the world, the exploited masses since the end of World War II have been struggling to erect a new, socialist society. In Asia, the victorious Chinese revolution has driven out the foreign profiteers and inspired the colonial peoples. In Europe, workers suffering under an outlived and decayed system, strive to break through the bonds and rid themselves of capitalism once and for all.

But Korea is not only a ghastly preview of the future toward which U.S. imperialism is plunging the world: It is also a promise of the invincible power of a revolutionary humanity inspired with an idea.

SYMPATHY FOR KOREANS

The Korean people have the sympathy of the overwhelming majority of mankind. And America has earned the hatred of the downtrodden everywhere. The world's sympathy is with the Korean people against the Brass Hat dictators.

The American people have not yet felt the full consequences of the Korean war. Although the people here have repeatedly shown their opposition to the war, and have indicated they do not believe it is a just or necessary war, nevertheless their opposition has been passive. It is for this reason alone that the Pentagon has been able to continue its policy of "Kill! Kill! Kill!" in Korea.

But the American warlords know they cannot long continue, let alone spread, this slaughter, with its heavy toll in American lives and wealth, without having to settle accounts with American popular resistance. They are aware that the American workingclass will not willingly suffer the consequences of all-out war. That is why the U.S. ruling class has been pressing its police-state drive to terrorize and outlaw every critical voice.

SPECIAL KIND OF WAR

The Korean war, the N. Y. Times correctly stated May 18, is a special kind of war, "in effect a civil war plus a fundamental clash of faiths."

On one side is reactionary faith in the perpetuation of a domed social order; on the other, faith in the ability of humanity to build a socialist world.

The American people must sooner or later join in this struggle on the side of the majority of mankind against American capitalism. As the consequences of war begin to be really felt at home, the U.S. workers will be drawn toward the fight for a socialist world. They will break with those who are spending eight to ten billion dollars a year to destroy Korea, and will instead send these billions to Korea and other lands, to feed and clothe the hungry and needy, to build homes, factories, schools, hospitals, dams — everything needed to build a world of boundless plenty.

When the American people thus break with their reactionary rulers and join the side of progress, they will put a stop to "Operation Killer." That will mark the beginning of the era of peace and progress.

CIO ANTI-TRUCKS STAND AIRED IN DETROIT NEWS

Under the headline "CIO Opposes Trucks Act as 'Thought Control' Law," the **Detroit News** (circulation, 577,000) of June 8 printed a story by labor columnist Asher Lauren on the CIO fight against the new repressive Michigan statute. Asher Lauren is a widely read reporter whose views often reflect opinions in leading labor circles. We reprint below the bulk of the June 8 article by Lauren.

* * *

The CIO says it hates KU Kluxers, fascists and communists, particularly the Commies. And it cites the expulsion of a dozen Communist-dominated unions in recent years as proof.

Yet today the Michigan CIO Council, representing a claimed 650,000 CIO members in the State, is on record against the Trucks Act, new State anti-subversives law which requires, along with other controls that Communists or members of Communist-front organizations must register with the State Police. . .

UNANIMOUS VOTE

At its Grand Rapids convention a few days ago the State CIO organization went on record against the law, without a dissenting vote!

The unanimity of action by the CIO delegates was all the more remarkable in view of the fact that Gov. Williams, whom the CIO regards as its champion, signed the bill into law last April 17 with no protest.

Why is the CIO so strongly opposed to the law?

One reason is that its leadership is apprehensive lest the law be used to stifle liberal and progressive ideas. The CIO recalls that its campaigns for social security, jobless benefits, and pensions were once branded "communistic" or at least "socialistic."

"We urge the vigorous prosecution of acts of espionage, sabotage and disloyalty to this country, but we insist that the prosecution of men for advocating ideas, however repulsive, does not benefit the cause of freedom and undermines the American principles of progress," the CIO resolution said.

Another reason is that the law permits prosecution on felony charges of any member of a Communist-front organization if he fails to register. According to the CIO interpretation a person can be declared a member of the Communist Party or Communist front organization even though he does not pay dues or hold a membership card.

AIMED AT STRIKES

A third reason is the broad and loose language in a section covering sabotage. The CIO contends this could be used in a labor dispute in a defense industry to send workers in legitimate union strikes to jail.

Most of the CIO delegates now refer to the Trucks Act as "the thought control law."

Notebook of an Agitator

THE BATTLE OF KOJE ISLAND

The whole story of Koje Island is not yet known, but from the few scraps of information which have been blown out of the prisoners' compounds, like hot rocks from a heaving volcano, the world is becoming uneasily aware of awful and fateful events transpiring there with the premonition of more to come.

Through a breach in the military censorship the world is catching glimpses of a conflict of gigantic proportions in which ordinary men, as often before in history, play big parts because of the things they represent. In the great crises of history some men always rise above themselves and attain the stature of heroes. That happened in our own history — in 1776 and again in 1861. In the men who made these two revolutions young America saw the magnified image of itself.

Across Barbed Wire

The same thing appears to be happening now once again in a far-off land, and we are witness to it. The transcendant issues of our century are being dramatized on Koje Island in human terms, as in a heroic epic which has for its theme the death agony of an old social order and the birth pangs of a new one. Colonial oppression and struggle for national independence; western supremacy and Asian self-assertion; war and revolution — these are the colossal issues involved in the confrontation of white and yellow men across a barbed-wire barricade.

Outwardly it would appear that the struggle is unequal, with the outcome foreordained. The American army, which never lost a war, goes into the battle of Koje Island with much better equipment than the "Ragged Continentals" of 1776 who defended their land and their homes with an odd assortment of old muskets and sticks and stones, and a more impetuous policy than the patient General Washington's strategy of attack and retreat to wear out the enemy and keep his own army in being.

For the battle of Koje Island we needed a different kind of General and we found him. To the atta-boy applause of the editorial writers, who unfortunately can't leave their desks to take part, General Boatner has proclaimed a crackdown and he has the stuff to make good with it. Press dispatches bristle with accounts of the formidable array of armament he has brought up for use against the prisoners of war who persist in waving their own banners within the compounds. There are daily reports of prisoners being killed and wounded since Boatner took charge and announced a "get tough" policy.

Prisoners' Side Not Told

Things are moving to some kind of a showdown in this battle of Koje Island; and the American people, with the historic memory of Bunker Hill not yet entirely obliterated, would do well to ask for a little more information about what we are fighting for there. We have heard the explanations of the brass hats. The captured "gooks," it seems, are "surly" and "fanatical." They "don't know who's boss" and they have to be shown. The compounds have to be split up into smaller units so that the prisoners can be "screened" more effectively. The improvised banners, waved from sticks inside the compounds, must come down. These are our declared war aims at Koje.

The prisoners' side of the story didn't come through yet, although a UP dispatch of May 21 reports that they made a strenuous effort to tell correspondents what it is. "When the prisoners inside saw newsmen arrive they set up a clamor to be allowed to talk to them," says the report. One shouted in English: "Let us talk to these war correspondents!' Authorities refused." Could this incident, buried in a long dispatch, have been a correspondent's indirect way of telling the world that the whole truth is not coming out because he and his colleagues are not allowed to send it?

As the climax approaches, the papers are full of information about the battle plans of the forces outside the barbed wire. **The New York Times, June 9, reports: "General Boatner** has shaped up a full-scale offensive with all the troops under his command. . . The plans call for battalions of infantrymen with fixed bayonets to crash through the barbed-wire barricades into the compounds, supported by several Patton tanks and under the protective range of machine guns."

That ought to do it. Military doctrine says that, other things being equal, superior fire-power prevails and decides. What chance, then, remains for the Koje prisoners who have no fire-power whatever? They have no chance at all — if other things are equal. But could it be that the prisoners keep their morale unshaken in the face of superior force because they think that the other things are not equal? That they have on their side some intangibles not comprehended by the military mind — some secret weapon more powerful than a bomb, some moral force generated by the things their banners represent and symbolize to them?

Revolution Lifted Them to Their Feet

If that is the case, history tells us that such men will not be easy to conquer. History also tells us that men so inspired can lose a battle and still win the war. The most dangerous animal on earth is the man who has nothing to lose and is convinced that he has everything to gain. That's the trouble with the ill-starred American adventure in Korea — it is up against men like that, who are convinced that their historic hour has come; that they have great allies; that hundreds of millions of their kindred are behind them because they are in the same fix.

Such a conviction can make all things possible. From such a conviction comes the fanatical courage of the Koje prisoners — you can even call it heroism and you won't go wrong — to face all the military power of America unarmed and defiant.

Yesterday they were nothing, with no rights that a white man was bound to respect. But a mighty revolution, coming up like thunder out of China and echoing throughout the entire Orient, has changed all that. Revolution has made new men out of them, lifted them to their feet and inspired them to sing and firmly believe: "We have been naught, we shall be all!"

That may be the secret weapon of the prisoners of Koje Island.

— J. P. C.

Revolutionists in Bolivia Set an Inspiring Example

NEW YORK, June 6 — What began in Bolivia April 9 as another coup d'etat, was transformed by the intervention of half-starved workers into the beginning of a great social revolution. This was the truth about the recent events in Bolivia as reported in a stirring account given by Bert Cochran in a public meeting sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party.

"Worldly-wise politicians have been writing that with the discovery of the atom bomb people don't count any more," said Cochran. "The brute machine, say the writers, and its brute owners are the supreme arbiters of men and events.

"But the Bolivian revolution," Cochran continued, "gives them the lie. The ignorant, hungry and poverty-stricken masses of La Paz — as the peoples of China, Korea, of Indo-China, of Persia, Egypt and Yugoslavia — in three days of heroic battle have said to the cynics: 'No, you are wrong! The people are still stronger. Mankind can win, as soon as it is determined enough to win.'"

The speaker described the three day April battle in La Paz, Bolivian capital. **"The workers went up against artillery with hand rifles. Great barricades rose in the workers' quarters. The regular army regiments were annihilated. Thousands of prisoners were taken by the quickly organized and armed People's Militia."**

Reactionary officials and army generals were forced to sign a capitulation to the victorious revolutionary forces.

By sketching these colorful and inspiring events the speaker refuted the slanders which have appeared in the American press slanted to smear the Bolivian revolution as merely another coup d'etat by a fascist junta.

It was unmistakably a popular uprising of powerful and determined masses.

TRACES CAUSES OF REVOLUTION

Comrade Cochran told his audience about the economic, social and political structure of Bolivia, a typical Latin American country, tracing the basic causes for the April revolution. He described the one-industry nature of the economy, imposed upon the people by foreign oppressors and native capitalists and landlords.

Tin mining is the major industry, owned and operated by foreign imperialists. "Who are these tin peddlers?" the speaker asked. "The industry upon which the whole Bolivian economy hinges is in the hands of three companies:

"Patino Mines, an American-owned corporation, is controlled by the Rockefeller interests. The second company is Hoschild Mines, owned by several Chilean multi-millionaires, and the third, Aramayo, is owned principally by the Swiss Bank, in partnership with some British plutocrats.

"The profits which these companies suck out of the toil and sweat of the Bolivian miners are out of this world," said Cochran. "In 1950 the Patino profits amounted to 42.7%."

"But the miners, their women and children working beside them, get $1.20 a day. It takes eight days work to buy a pair of shoes. Over half the workers have tuberculosis. Half the babies die in their first year."

Thus Bolivian society is divided into two extremes of wealth and poverty.

EXPLAINS ROLE OF PARTIES

In his political analysis of the Bolivian events, Comrade Cochran explained the role of various parties. The Stalinists, he stated, "fortunately for the Bolivian working class are very weak there. They disgraced themselves over a number of years, especially during World War II, by their alliances with sections of the capitalists and by supporting Yankee imperialism."

"But likewise fortunately for the Bolivian people," he continued, "the Trotskyist movement is very influential in Bolivia. They played an important part in the recent revolution."

Cochran described the MNR, a petty bourgeois party led by Victor Paz Estenssoro, as a movement resting primarily upon the middle class in the city and country, lifted to power by the push of the insurgent working class who as yet have hopes that the MNR government will carry out the major demand of the masses, the nationalization of the mines and the land.

Among the cainet members are two representatives of the unions, Juan Lechin of the Miners Union, and German Butron, of the Textile Workers Union. Both have been pressing for nationalization.

REVOLUTION HAS ONLY BEGUN

The revolution has only begun, with the issue still in the balance. The speaker stressed that Bolivia is a small country, and that the American imperialists will bring murderous pressure to bear on the government to prevent nationalization.

But although the capitalist press in the U.S. predicts that the government will have to retreat on its promises to nationalize the mines and land, Cochran pointed out they ignore the key role and powerful lever which the intervention of the armed workingclass brings to bear on the situation.

"Victor Hugo once wrote," Cochran said on this point, "that nothing in this world is so powerful as an idea whose time has come!" The anti-capitalist revolutionary idea "today has this power. It's time has come."

Placing Bolivia in the context of the spreading world revolutionary upheavals, Cochran predicted that the workers there will have the final word.

The meeting was well attended and included several Bolivians who showed great interest in the report of the speaker. The audience contributed generously in response to an appeal for funds to help the Socialist Workers Party, and the discussion was followed by refreshments.

Anti-Ridgway Demonstration

Steel-helmeted gendarmes with guns held ready move in on workers during Paris demonstration against the arrival of Gen. Matthew Ridway, new commander of anti-Soviet and anti-labor armed forces. Nearly 700 demonstrators were arrested, one killed and many wounded in the May 28 protest against the conversion of Europe into an armed camp.

The American Way of Life

Mint Juleps and Chain Gangs

There are many ways of life in America. Go to the resort cities of Georgia and you will find dazzling hotels, with spacious balconies overlooking the sea, where deft, white-coated waiters serve tinkling drinks in tall glasses. Go to Cochran or Pierce County in the same state, and there you will find the chain gang.

Our story of the chain gang comes to us from Edward Brown, Negro prisoner now in Philadelphia who is fighting extradition back to Georgia. Like Carbine Williams, hero of the current Hollywood screen play, Brown pleaded guilty to a murder charge arising out of a killing committed in self-defense, on the assurance of counsel that he would get off with a light sentence. Like Carbine Williams, Brown was double-crossed and got a life sentence. Unlike Carbine Williams, who became a "model" prisoner, Edward Brown did not become resigned to his fate. He fought for his life and his sanity, escaping three times since 1937.

Among the experiences revealed by Brown were these: He was kept in a "sweat box" for four days, was "stretched" on a medieval torture rack until he lost consciousness, and was smeared with molasses and "staked out" in the sun.

The "sweat box" is a wooden cage about 6 feet by 12, airless and dark, and too low to permit the prisoner to stand, so that he must kneel or crouch constantly. Brown reported that he was shackled at the ankles while in the box.

He described the "stretcher" as follows: "I was put on the machine and my body was pulled apart by cables attached to my legs and arms. They keep you there as long as you can breathe, or until you blank out. I blanked out."

Brown told how he had been stretched on the ground, face up, with hands and feet shackled to stakes. Molasses was poured on his face and bare chest. Soon, ants, bees and other insects were crawling all over him. Dogs licked and bit him, and three human dogs, the warden's son and his two playmates, put dirt on his bites and wounds and tortured him in other ways.

At other times, Brown was hung from a tree by his thumbs, had his feet rubbed raw and was then forced to keep them in a strong liniment solution until they blistered so badly he couldn't walk, and had red-colored liniment forced up his rectum. The pain caused by this last torture was so terrible that Brown almost went insane. The occasion for this outrage was only that Brown complained that his leg shackles were too tight and he couldn't keep up with the rest of the chain gang.

Brown's fight against extradition back to the chain gang is being aided by Philadelphia attorney David Levenson who is 76 years old, and who is not taking any fee for handling the case. Levenson says he took the case "to justify my life as an individual."

— Thomas Raymond

THE MILITANT ARMY

WEST COAST SCOREBOARD

	Points
San Francisco	1,784
Oakland	1,289
Eastside Los Angeles	1,048
San Pedro	1,015
Seattle	980
Westside Los Angeles	912
Southside Los Angeles	522

The best work of the week in the West Coast competition for **Militant** subscriptions was done by the **Westside Los Angeles branch**, which raised its score from 598 to 912 points. **Seattle** gained another 290 points and the **Southside Los Angeles** branch added 260 points to its score. **Frank K. of Oakland** is still individual high-scorer in the competition for first prize of one week's free vacation in New York. Frank has 995 points. **Dave of Los Angeles** added 186 points to his last week's score and is in second place with a total of 425. **John** of Los Angeles is third with 364 points.

Other high-scorers are **Ed Harris**, San Francisco, 324 points; **Jackie**, San Francisco, 194; **Frank B.**, San Francisco, 187; **Clara**, Seattle, 168; **Frank**, Seattle, 168; and **Bill K.**, Oakland, 164 points. The final scoreboard and prize winners will be announced in next week's **Militant**.

Minneapolis' Militant subscription campaign has been extended another week. **Helen S.** writes, "Everybody wanted to continue with our 'May Militant Campaign.' With a record of 72 subs in May, we expect to wind up a five week campaign with 100 subs. Team competition for top place is sharpening up with the Lavender Hill Mob leading the Debs Banner Bearers by two points. (One point is given for a six months sub.) Our team scores are as follows: Lavender Hill Mob, 33 points; Debs Banner Bearers, 31; Portland Promoters, 16; Campus Campaigners, 15, and the Northside Tornadoes, 15 points." Helen also reports a sale at a small Progressive Party meeting, with a strictly Stalinist attendance, of seven **Militants** and three copies of "The Road to Peace." **Dave, Jack,** and **Donald** were the salesmen.

Bert Deck sends in subs for **Chicago** sold by **Alice, Frank** and **Leslie.** He writes, "We've had some successful sales of **The Militant** recently on street corners and house to house. In a housing project **Pat** and **Leslie** sold four single copies and a sub one evening after work. **Dotty** and **Alice** hit an El stop and sold 40 papers in an hour. **Manny** sold 13 papers at a meeting on the campus addressed by a British laborite. At other sales **Snow** sold 20; **Frank**, 16; **Marj**, 12; **Gordon**, 11; **Bert**, 10; and **Elaine**, 10."

Lou writes from **Akron** that he and **Kay** went out Sunday selling door to door. There was a good response to the slogan of **The Militant** for an independent labor party. "One person bought a paper after asking what party was behind it. Upon finding out he wanted to know the difference between the Socialist Workers Party and the Socialist Labor Party. He had become disappointed in the SLP and bought a **Militant** to see if we were sincere socialists. **K.** deserves credit for helping us with this sale by staying with our kid while we went out."

Chicago writes for 100 more of the Harry T. Moore pamphlet. They sold out their original order and are planning a campaign around the pamphlet to begin with the conclusion of their petition work.

Milwaukee also reports good sales and ordered 50 more copies. They write, "We had one Sunday sale and three comrades sold all they had very quickly. They were enthusiastic about possible future sales and we plan to go out again June 15."

RELIGIOUS LIBERAL LEADERS SPEAK AGAINST STIFLING OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Strong protests against the witch hunt are being voiced by religious, liberal and labor groups, as reaction against the spreading thought-control offensive gathered new support.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church held in New York warned its 2,500,000 members May 28 against a "blinding fear of subversive forces" that threatens to "tear down the whole structure of freedom and equality in America."

In a report of the Social Education and Action Commission adopted by the assembly, the Presbyterians vigorously denounced "guilt by association," unfair loyalty oaths, and the "unmistakable trend toward authoritarianism and thought-control."

The assembly also spoke out against racial discrimination and called upon the church to eliminate "segregated synods, presbyteries and congregations" within their denomination.

A broad united front in defense of Harold F. Lenz, ousted as dean of students at Queens College as the result of a campaign against him by the American Legion and the Catholic War Veterans, called a rally for June 12.

Lenz was removed after a protracted attack on him for his stand in defense of civil rights for minority political parties. He had refused to go along with a proposal to deny the use of school halls to the Communist Party.

The rally, called to demand a full investigation of the Lenz case, is sponsored by the Liberal Party, the Americans for Democratic Action, AFL Teachers Guild, NAACP, The Jewish Labor Committee, the Workmen's Circle, Students for Lenz Committee and the Parents Committee for Reinstatement of Dean Lenz.

Many other organizations and individuals have rallied in defense of Lenz, a prominent leader of the Americans for Democratic Action and the Liberal Party in N. Y. The Queens College chapter of the American Association of University Professors has called for a full investigation.

At the National Conference of Social Workers held May 29 in Chicago, Benjamin E. Youngdahl, President of the American Association of Social Workers, sounded an alarm against the drive against free thought:

"We must not let the advent of McCarthyism in this country compel us to reject things we really stand for," he said, "or deny the espousal of programs that we really favor, on which democracy depends."

He further warned the social workers not to desert causes they believe in "because Communists espoused those same causes."

The "guilt by association" smear campaign hit CIO members of the Wage Stabilization Board last week, when Rep. Richard B. Vail (R, Ill.) attacked Joseph Childs, URWA Vice President, John Brophy, and Benjamin Sigal as having been connected with "communist fronts."

Sigal, former attorney for the United Shoe Workers, stated, "To assume I was a communist sympathizer because I represented a union which may have harbored communists is a conclusion utterly unjustified by logic or reason."

These attacks on the witch hunt from representatives of an important cross-section of the American people are the result of the widening scope of the drive against civil liberties. The Lenz ouster was especially significant, since he was victimized for daring to speak out in defense of civil rights, as a supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ADA and the Liberal Party.

Thus, the campaign, which began against the Stalinists, and has hit the Socialist Workers Party in Michigan under the Trucks Law, is now clearly directed against the civil rights of everyone. This was predicted in The Militant as the inevitable purpose of the victimizations under the Smith Act.

When the campaign against the Bill of Rights affected only the minority political parties, the SWP and the Stalinists, very few of the liberals and none of the labor leaders came forth to defend the principle of civil liberties.

What was necessary to stop the police state drive at its incention was a broad united front, led by the labor movement, in defense of the civil rights of all regardless of political belief.

The spreading alarm over the terror-drive against freedom of thought now makes possible such a united front, which can yet mobilize the American people against the witch hunt and save our traditional democratic rights.

Joyce Marlow to Speak in Newark on Women in Industry

Joyce Marlow will speak on "Women in Industry" at the Newark, N. J., Socialist Forum, Friday, June 20, 8:30 p.m. The address is 423 Springfield Avenue.

The speaker will analyze the role of women in U.S. industry and present the socialist program to abolish discrimination against women.

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Youth Health Problem

Maj Gen. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, said June 12 that almost 45% of draft-eligible men examined during the past four years had been rejected for physical or mental reasons. He stated there was "a real youth-health problem in this country." South Carolina had the highest rejection rate with 63.2% of the youth examined found in bad health.

EISENHOWER REJECTS COMPULSORY FEPC LAW

By Jean Blake

FEPC is a "shotgun question," General Eisenhower said in his press conference at Abilene, Kan., June 5. His answer to the question was the same as Taft's:

1. He is opposed to compulsory federal Fair Employment Practices legislation.

2. He supports states' rights in this field as in others, which would leave Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, etc., to maintain Jim Crow as usual.

3. He favors "education" rather than compulsory measures for equal rights for Negroes.

In answer to another pertinent question on his attitude toward Negroes, the Republican politician made it clear that **America's white supremacists need not fear that he will depart from the current official pattern of sugar-coating Jim Crow.**

CHEAP HONORS

Asked whether he would consider appointing to his cabinet some "Negro of competence, like Ralph Bunche," he ducked the issue by saying he has not yet given any thought to people he should appoint if he is elected. But he gave his game away by adding that he admires Bunche very much "and when I was president of Columbia, we gave him an honorary degree and I could not say any more than that because we think very highly of honorary degrees at Columbia."

In other words, with the typical condescension of the "Some-of-my-best-friends-are-Negroes" politicians, Eisenhower would continue the established practice of making no concessions to the demands of the Negro masses for their democratic rights as citizens, and try to buy off their leaders with cheap honors.

AFRO-AMERICAN QUESTIONS

An editorial in one of the leading national Negro weekly papers, **The Afro-American** of June 7, written before the General's Abilene speech, said, "We would like for Ike to tell us:

"(1) Whether or not he has changed his mind about armed forces segregation since he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1948? Then he definitely sided with those who believed integration in the services was an impossibility.

"(2) Does he favor an enforceable FEPC?

"(3) Will he favor statehood for Alaska and Hawaii?

"(4) Will he be willing to appoint colored Federal judges on District courts in Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York where vacancies now exist?

"(5) Does he favor home-rule and enfranchisement of Washington's voteless citizens?

"(6) What is his position on the burning question of segregated schools?

"(7) Does he favor Federal aid to education?

"(8) Will he press for the erection of more Federal slum clearance and low-rent housing projects?"

ATTITUDE CLEAR

Eisenhower did not answer these questions specifically, but his attitude on FEPC made quite clear what his answers would be. According to a transcript of the Abilene press conference, he said:

"FEPC — When you use those initials you are proposing a sort of shotgun question. I have no objection whatever to stating my unalterable support of fairness among all American citizens.

"I believe that insofar as the Federal Government has any constitutional authority in this field, all of its policies should adhere firmly and without any qualification to that principle.

"I do not believe we can cure all of the evils in men's hearts by law. I believe we can do more by leadership and by getting states to do so than by making it a federal or a compulsory thing. I shall never cease to fight for it."

The Negro masses have a vital interest in the attitude of this brass-hat candidate for the presidency of the United States toward their democratic rights. **Eisenhower has been built up as a "man of the people," but his first words about his platform show him to be a candidate of Big Business offering the hand of friendship to the Southern Bourbons.**

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Where Your Money Goes

The Florida State Retailers' Association and the Tax Foundation, a private research group, recently released some very significant figures concerning the 1952 tax load. Direct and indirect taxes — federal, state and local — today take from 38c to 40c out of every income dollar. By far the larger share of these taxes is paid in the shape of indirect or hidden taxes.

To illustrate how the tax structure has pyramided, there are 201 direct and hidden taxes on a gallon of gasoline; 189 taxes on a suit of clothes; 154 on a bar of soap; 53 on a loaf of bread, etc.

Taking "an average family of 3.2 persons," the Tax Foundation estimates that such a family with an income of 3,500 pays nearly $1,100 in taxes, of which $800 is hidden taxes as against a little less than $300 in income taxes. In other words, the average American family pays $2.66 in hidden taxes for every dollar it must also pay out in direct taxation.

The actual tax gouge bites even deeper because the "low income brackets," the huge majority of the population, must spend virtually their entire income on food and other necessities, which carry the most hidden taxes.

For example: On a ton of coal, a gallon of gasoline, a pack of cigarettes, these taxes constitute as much as two-thirds of the purchasing price. On such necessities as a loaf of bread, a pound of beef or a quart of milk, the taxes amount to up to one-half of the purchasing price. Almost one-third of the price of an automobile consists of direct and hidden taxes.

These facts and figures prove beyond the shadow of a doubt on whose backs the tax-load really falls. It is not the rich but the poor who are shouldering the intolerable tax-load which has resulted from the arms drive and the war program of American imperialism.

At the same time these figures suffice to indicate how rapidly the tax gouge is undermining, amid continued inflation, the living standards of the American workers and of the middle classes.

Not less than 38c out of every wage dollar already go for taxes. But even more alarming is the rate at which this tax gouge has been boosted. In 1951 the over-all tax load amounted to 32c out of every dollar. This means that in the space of a single year the over-all tax load has been increased by 20% and more.

Heavier arms expenditures and, therefore, steeper taxes lie ahead, if American imperialism is permitted to continue with its arms program and allowed to unload the costs on the backs of the poor.

The need for tax relief has become, in a literal sense, a life-and-death issue for American labor and for the mass of the people generally.

Baruch's War Timetable

A statement by Bernard M. Baruch at the May 28 meeting of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee shows how much pressure there is in Big Business circles for an early plunge into World War III.

Baruch's comments are very important for two reasons: he himself is a Wall Street financier and a representative of Wall Street opinion, and he is Wall Street's "war economy specialist." Whenever his name is mentioned by the newspapers, he is labelled "a top adviser to Presidents in two world wars."

Baruch, in his statement to the Senate committee, "protested" the "stretch-out in arms production." He called for a "sense of disciplined urgency," to speed up arms production. He pointed out that the tooling-up operations and construction of factories must give way sooner or later to full-scale production of weapons and munitions, and he wants that transition to take place very soon.

What is the extent of Baruch's disagreement with the Pentagon? Baruch wants the previous goal of peak arms production, originally set for mid-1954, to be restored. The Pentagon, on the other hand, gave up the mid-1954 goal some time ago, moving its sights to 1955 or '56. Both have short term perspectives. The difference is between two years and three or four years.

It must be understood that the discussion over arms "preparedness" is really a discussion of the capitalist war timetable. Capitalist strategists realize that this is against them. The revolt of the European and colonial people is growing. Only in one respect does American capitalism gain with the passage of time, and that is in the military sphere. When the U.S. has reached a military peak, the capitalist class will have no further reason to wait.

It must also be kept in mind that, if the U.S. capitalists permit the armaments peak to pass without war, the decline in arms expenditures would then surely produce a devastating economic crisis. This is an additional reason why the Baruch-Pentagon discussion of the arms-production tempo is really a discussion of the war timetable.

Still another consideration: since most important capitalist spokesmen have admitted that they do not expect the Soviet Union to launch a war, the initiative for war belongs primarily to American capitalism. When Baruch and the Pentagon speak of the "war danger," they are not, properly interpreted, speaking of something outside themselves, but of something over which they have considerable control, at least so far as timing is concerned.

Thus when Baruch says: "Hurry the arms, the war danger is coming close," this should be read: "Wall Street's needs call for war quite soon; therefore, rush arms production!" And when Wall Street speaks, the Pentagon usually does its best to obey.

The Massacres on Koje Island

A Documented Record of U.S. Atrocities Against Korean Prisoners of War

By Art Preis

"This is war!" exclaimed Gen. Haydon L. "the Bull" Boatner at the start of the June 10 battle on which his military fame will forever rest — when he sent his 6,000 troops, with tanks and flame throwers, against 6,000 North Korean prisoners of war trapped behind the barbed-wire fences of Compound 76 on the South Korean "Alcatraz" — Koje Island.

It is a war such as the world has never before heard of — the armed might of a modern military machine hurled against organized and defiant, but disarmed or crudely armed captives. In this "critical war of the prison camps," as the June 8 N. Y. **Times** describes it, the contending forces "from a military point of view are weirdly lopsided."

"The United Nations has tanks, machine guns, tear gas and fully equipped battle-hardened troops." The prisoners have nothing but their fighting spirit, their solidarity, their hatred of imperialism and — as the **Times** complains — the "'tactical advantage" of a "highly effective propaganda" appeal to world public opinion.

General Boatner, addressing his troops on May 26, said: "You must not kill prisoners unnecessarily. If you get into a fight, **slash him, use the butt of your rifle, knee him in the groin** — but don't kill him or hurt him unnecessarily." These tender sentiments preceded and inspired the slaughter on June 10 of an admitted 31 more prisoners and the wounding of 139. The U.S. military and their allies have found it "necessary" to kill war prisoners with monotonous regularity. Repeated massacres — I use the word advisedly — have occurred on Koje.

I charge mass murder of helpless prisoners of war from the start of the Korean war in June 1950.

I accuse the U.S. high command and its South Korean ally of provocations used as the pretext for slaying prisoners. The atrocities in recent months are the direct result of attempts to "screen" the "Communist" from the "anti-Communist" prisoners by force and to terrorize prisoners into rejecting repatriation.

I further charge that the U.S. negotiators have held up a truce with a faked "poll" of war prisoners to show that 100,000 prisoners out of 170,000 would "forcibly resist" return to North Korea or China in event of a truce. I refer the reader to the article on the bottom of this page reporting the June 2 **Time** magazine expose of the prisoner "poll."

The above charges I shall prove with documented records taken exclusively from pro-U.S. and pro-war sources — dispatches of the leading news agencies, official statements, etc. Most have gone through rigid Army censorship.

"Scorched Earth" in Korea

Dense smoke swirls about a burning Korean peasant's hut as a U.S. soldier covers doorway with ready gun. This is in South Korea, behind U.S. lines. U.S. military authorities have ordered the burning of thousands of similar dwellings because they might serve as "cover for guerrillas."

"Hitherto Secret Details"

"War in general has become more brutal with the years, until nothing is left of sportsmanship, mutual respect of fighting men, protection of civilians or any other virtues it may once have had," complains William L. Worden in "Our Lucky Red Prisoners," **Saturday Evening Post**, Jan. 5, 1952. **"The lone exception to this trend is the treatment of prisoners by Occidental nations. At Koje, this humanity is being tried out on Orientals..."**

The following is the record of this "humanity" and "sportsmanship":

Feb. 23, 1952: The Associated Press reported that on Feb. 18, a week before, 75 **"Korean civilian prisoners"** had been killed and 139 seriously wounded in "notorious compound 62" on Koje Island. They were shot down when they "rioted" and "attacked" "750 American guards." The May 9 **N. Y. Herald-Tribune** raised the number killed on Feb. 18 to "seventy-eight."

March 15, 1952: The Second Logistical Command at Munsan, South Korea, announced that two days previously "twelve Communist prisoners" were killed and 26 wounded when a "detachment of ROK (Rhee government) troops under an ROK captain were suddenly stoned when passing an area containing a large number of unruly Communist prisoners. The guard company opened fire..."

May 20, 1952: An International News Service (INS) dispatch by Don A. Schanche from Pusan reported "a new riot involving hundreds of Communist war prisoners exploded today in the compound of a PW hospital at Pusan." These were supposed to be "anti-Communist" prisoners whom the U.S. claimed had been removed from Koje when they "voted" they would "forcibly resist" repatriation north. "The U.S. 8th Army announced . . . that the PWs in the Pusan camp 'forcibly resisted' attempts by UN military authorities to administer medical treatment to them."

The result: "One of the Red agitators was killed and 85 were injured when the American guards, all combat-wise infantrymen, crushed the revolt by 'riot tactics,' apparently use of bayonets and clubs." The June 2 **Time** magazine disclosed: **"Fiercest fighters of all were 600 Red amputees who hopped about on their stumps, using their crutches as clubs." U.S. troops "backed by tanks" "retaliated with tear gas and concussion grenades. . ."**

A June 5 AP dispatch from Koje later referred to "some 1,600 prisoners who were moved to Koje following the May 20 riot in a hospital compound at Pusan. . ."

May 21, 1952: An INS dispatch from Pusan reported the killing five days before by a guard at Koje of a "defiant Chinese . . . leader of a work party of prisoners."

May 24, 1952: "News of a third blody riot" on Koje "came to light," reported the AP. In an "uprising" **on April 10**, it said, "four Korean guards and three North Korean Communist prisoners were killed and 57 Reds wounded. . . Associated Press correspondent William Jorden obtained the story from South Korean witnesses almost a week ago but **Army censors in Tokyo withheld it until today."**

"Lifting a Veil of Secrecy"

May 26, 1952: Another series of massacres — in September 1951 — was revealed. All news of these killings had been suppressed for nine months. They showed that such massacres were not "provoked" by the prisoners against themselves to "prevent" a "pôll" on "voluntary repatriation," as the U.S. officials claimed about the Feb. and March "riots." The term "voluntary repatriation" was unknown in September 1951.

"Allied officers today **lifted a veil of secrecy** from another series of riots on Koje during 'bloody September' of 1951," reported INS. "Scores of Red POWs, it was revealed, were killed in those outbreaks." The British news agency Reuters claims that "the prisoners themselves . . . killed thirty-seven of their own number," but "American security guards, attempting to break up one riot, killed one North Korean prisoner."

How many more of the "scores" reported slain were killed by guards we cannot know. The "veil of secrecy" was not lifted that high.

May 27, 1952: In a tiny three-paragraph item that hardly any papers carried, the United Press reported from Koje that "the deaths of 15 more Communist war prisoners in clashes with Allied guards on turbulent Koje Island were disclosed today. . . Dr. Stephen Gelenger of Flint, Mich., commander of the UN hospital on Koje, said **the 15 previously unreported deaths occurred in scattered minor clashes with guards over a period of weeks."**

These "scattered minor" deaths were reported almost daily thereafter. On May 29, one North Korean prisoner was killed and another wounded by "an accidental volley fired from a guard tower today." (N. Y. Times.) On May 30 the Associated Press reported "three **civilians** killed and thirteen injured yesterday in a prison compound at Yongchon" on the South Korean mainland "in a riot among **interned civilians moved there recently from Koje Island."**

The May 30 N. Y. Times reported five prisoners killed and two wounded on Koje after "a brazen attempt" to pass "secret messages among the compounds." On June 2 one prisoner was shot and wounded for "jeering" at a South Korean officer. The same day another North Korean prisoner was killed and one wounded when an "Allied guard accidently fired a machine gun into Compound 98" and "it was disclosed that two were wounded last night by a guard's riot shotgun." (United Press.) Another UP dispatch on June 4 reports "American guards shot and wounded four North Korean prisoners last night."

By June 3, "the prison camp chief voiced concern over the increase in accidental shootings" (INS) — the "third and fourth in 24 hours that have angered and embarrassed the camp commander. . ." They may have been "embarrassing" but they were no "accidents."

Who Provoked the Killings

Such murder of prisoners has been standard policy from the start of the Korean war. Before the Eighth Army censorship was clamped on, there were numerous dispatches about this by U.S. correspondents in Korea. John Osborne wrote in his "Report from the Orient," **Life** magazine, Aug. 21, 1950, how Syngman Rhee's South Korean troops **"murder to save themselves the trouble of escorting prisoners . . . too often they murder prisoners of war and civilians before they have had a chance to give any information . . .** the American record blotted by our reliance on . . . the murderous habits and methods of our South Korean helpers."

Gordon Walker, in the July 15, 1950, **Christian Science Monitor**, described how a South Korean captain asked an American colonel for permission "to execute 600 prisoners." The colonel said he couldn't give such permission. "The captain scratches his head. . . . 'If we let these Communist prisoners go we will probably wake up in the morning and find one under our bed with a rifle in his hand. . . **I think I had better hurry back and finish my little execution job.'"**

When such executions became so open and flagrant that they created a world scandal, the U.S. military selected the isolated barren island of Koje for a gigantic prison camp. For more than a year news of what was happening to the prisoners was cut off. The Feb. 18, 1952, massacre of 78 civilians broke through the iron curtain.

Gen. Mark Clark, U.S.-UN Far East Commander, now claims that "any violence that has occurred at Koje has been the result of deliberate and planned machinations . . . of unprincipled Communist leaders. . ." That is a lie. The U.S. authorities and troops under their orders have been the provokers and aggressors. Here are some examples.

The Feb. 18 massacre was provoked by an attempt at forcible "screening" of prisoners when "troops, members of the famous 27th 'Wolfhound' Regiment, moved into Compound 62 at dawn . . . to line up prisoners for interviews. . ." (AP, Feb. 23.)

The killing of 12 prisoners on March 13 occurred when guards marched "about 100 anti-Communists . . . about twenty feet in front of the Communist compound. The anti-Communists waved small South Korean flags and sang South Korean marching songs. They slowed down deliberately as the Communist North Koreans pressed against the barbed wire to denounce them." Some rocks were thrown.

"Less then a minute later, gunfire poured into the compound, not only from the carbines of the guards . . . but also from the guns of a South Korean detachment marching back to barracks along a road that skirted another side of the compound . . . **General Dodd said the shooting was 'a mistake.'"** (Murray Schumach, **N. Y. Times**, March 15.)

The "hitherto secret" April 10 "riot" in which 28 prisoners were killed and 57 wounded "began, according to the Army, **when a South Korean guard lost his patience and shot and wounded a Red prisoner who had been hurling insults at him."** (INS, May 24.)

The Judgment of World Opinion

Robert S. Allen, Washington columnist, in the June 4 N. Y. **Post** disclosed "most significant information" that the "Senate Armed Services Committee has suppressed" of the "secret testimony of Army Secretary Pace and Army Chief of Staff Collins" on "certain unreported events that preceded and followed the Dodd-Colson incident."

"Highlights of what was deleted from what Secretary Pace and General Collins told the Committee behind lock doors," reports Allen, is that "'hot-headed' South Korean guards killed and wounded a considerable number of prisoners shortly before ex-Gen. Dodd was seized by the PWs."

Sen. Morse asked Pace: "Now let us suppose that this incident was placed before an international tribunal. **Based on the information we have, do you think our case would fare very well before such a tribunal?**

"No, I do not." admitted Pace.

The "international tribunal" of world public opinion has already judged the events at Koje. Before this tribunal the U.S. military authorities are guilty of murderous atrocities against prisoners of war.

Germans Charge Jailed Nazis Did Only What U.S. Is Doing at Koje

German political circles and the German press are charging that Nazis now in prison as war criminals did nothing different from what the U.S. military are doing to Korean and Chinese prisoners of war in the concentration camps on Koje Island, according to the Bonn dispatch of Jack Raymond in the June 6 **N.Y. Times.**

"Assertions of this nature have been made by influential Germans ever since the war in Korea started, much to the consternation of Allied and particularly United States authorities," reports Raymond. U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy has even been forced to disavow publicly "that United Nations soldiers were committing acts for which Germans had been tried as war criminals."

The German Future, official organ of the Free Democratic party, a member of Chancellor Adenauer's governing coalition, recently observed: "We do not want to act superior or appear malicious when we call attention to these events (in Korea). We only want to state that in the face of Communist methods humane Western principles cannot be applied in the treatment of prisoners of war." The paper hails the action of the U.S. military authorities, who did not treat the prisoners of war in Korea "as normal prisoners" but instead "finally. . . turned to the use of arms, tear gas and armored cars against prisoners.

"In Nuremberg this would have meant a death sentence," the paper complains. **The German Future** refers to a plan to review sentences passed on Nazis and suggests "it certainly would not be a bad idea to put Allied officers from Koje on the parole boards for German 'war criminals.'"

Time Admits PW Poll a Fraud

Time magazine of June 2 reveals as a complete fraud the claim of U.S. truce negotiators that they had polled some 170,000 war prisoners individually in U.S. prison camps in Korea and that 100,000 had said they would "forcibly resist repatriation" to "Communist-controlled countries" in event of a truce.

When the U.S. negotiators used this faked survey as a pretext for refusing to return 100,000 of 170,000 prisoners of war, "prospects for an early armistice" were "unintentionally and unexpectedly wrecked," reported the **N.Y. Herald Tribune** of April 26.

While the daily press continues the fiction about the POW poll, **Time** has finally admitted that of all aspects of "the all-but-incredible story of chaos and bloodshed in the U.N.'s prison stockades," the "worst of all" is that **"observers were beginning to realize that the prisoner vote on repatriation, which at first had seemed the only creditable and politically valuable aspect of the whole affair, had not been arrived at by the U.N. in a true and careful polling, but was in some cases a rough & ready guess."**

This "rough & ready guess," which was announced on April 25 by Col. George W. Hickman, senior U.S. staff officer at the Panmunjom sessions, was defended by him as an accurate survey, the result of "a sincere and conscientious effort" to ascertain the desires of all 170,000 Korean and Chinese prisoners-of-war."

But, Time now discloses, there has been "almost complete lack of U.N. control" since last September in the prisoner compounds on Koje Island and "under such conditions, no fair or complete balloting on political preference was possible. Washington apparently did not realize this."

Whether or not Washington realized that it couldn't conduct "fair or complete balloting," the "screening orders went out, and General Ridgway passed them on to the Second Logistical Command at Pusan, and so on down. **The screeners did their best, but their best was poor. Some compounds successfully resisted all screening."**

In one compound where anti-Communists were in control, a "preliminary screening" was held. "They called for repatriation volunteers; when two loyal Communists stepped forward, the pair was set upon and done to death."

Time further reports: "The Eighth Army kept the physical details of its nose-counting under wraps, but somehow or other it emerged with 59,000 North Korean and Chinese prisoners who would not 'forcibly resist' repatriation. By scraping around among dissident South Koreans, it raised the number of those willing to go north to 70,000. When this number was passed on to the U.N. negotiators they were stunned. They had already (and unwisely) given Nam Il & Co. a much higher estimate; they knew the Reds would not accept the 70,000 figure."

But when the U.N. negotiators asked Gen. Ridgway for a rescreening, "Ridgway referred the request to Van Fleet. Van Fleet, however, stoutly insisted that the prison stockades were under control, and resented any suggestion that they were not. Ridgway — and Washington — backed him up."

Van Fleet lied and Ridgway and the Pentagon swore the lie was truth. "So the 70,000 figure was presented to the Communists and they exploded." And, laments **Time**, "in presenting the figures as if every prisoner had been specifically consulted, the U.N. made a serious mistake." It is such deliberate "mistakes" that have repeatedly prevented a truce in Korea.

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The Negro Struggle

NAACP and Political Action

By Jean Blake

In last week's column we discussed proposals for resolutions at the annual convention in Oklahoma City June 24-29 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. One proposal was the organization of workers' defense guards for protection against anti-Negro violence. Another proposal was adoption of a policy to defend all victims of the current witch hunt.

The two problems are related, of course. American capitalist democracy can no longer afford the democratic trappings which have concealed the real dictatorship of capital in the past. Hence the mounting attack on minority groups and minority opinions.

The tremendous power of the American working class, capable of producing the highest standard of living in history here at home and of helping the workers of the whole world to catch up, is a threat to the rule of Big Business. Big Business feels that it must head off this threat at any cost. Scrapping of the "democratic process" is only the first step for those who are determined to defend the present outmoded economic order.

This means that the old type of political action, based on the ability of the capitalists to bribe the working class with reforms, it outdated — both for capital and for labor.

The delegates to the national convention should pass a resolution recognizing the new stage in American history as it affects the tasks of the NAACP.

The NAACP has long recognized that political action is necessary in the struggle for full equality for Negroes in the United States, and has done a noteworthy job of winning the legal right to vote in many areas where the ballot was formerly denied, and helping to increase the number of Negro voters.

Despite this, there has been no progress in securing civil rights legislation in Congress. Both the Democrats and Republicans have given lip service to the cause of equal rights, particularly when seeking support from the thousands of new Negro voters, but neither party has used its power, when it has been in a majority in Congress, to pass such legislation.

The 42nd annual convention in Atlanta last year noted that "the 82nd Congress has so far failed miserably in its promise to enact civil rights legislation as outlined in the platforms of both major parties. Both of these parties are guilty of insincerity and inertia in pressing for the passage of civil rights legislation and have used the so-called national emergency as an excuse for not pressing the promised civil rights legislation. . ."

President Truman's responsibility was also noted in the resolution on FEPC, which stated: "Just as the majority of reactionary opponents or half-hearted friends of civil rights in Congress are responsible for the failure to adopt Fair Employment Practice legislation, so the President is responsible for the failure to enforce Fair Employment Practice provisions already in defense contracts."

The situation this year is even worse. The candidates for nomination by the two major parties have even worse records and programs on civil rights than the candidates of 1948.

It is time for the NAACP to recognize that resolutions condemning the Democrats and the Republicans, even when coupled with vote registration campaigns, net no gains for civil rights so long as the voters are given no alternative but voting the same parties back into office. The corrupt and cynical politicians will not take the voters' needs, their protests and their demands seriously so long as political power is monopolized by the Democratic and Republican party machines.

It is necessary to do more than threaten and bluster. It is time to show the two old parties that the Negro people are through supporting the reactionary Congressional coalition.

The convention should call on the members and friends of the NAACP to reject both the Democratic and Republican parties. The delegates should call on the AFL, the CIO and the independent unions, who have had similar experiences in the field of labor legislation and who have proved to be the most consistent allies of the NAACP in political action, to join in a national conference for the organization of an independent labor party.

The bombing of a polling place in Jacksonville, Florida, May 27 to prevent Negroes from going to the polls should make it clear that voting will take an act of courage for Southern Negroes in the Presidential election this year. It would be a terrible waste to spend that courage on a vote for Senator Russell of Georgia, an avowed white supremacist, or Senator Kefauver, who also opses a compulsory FEPC.

Word must be spread throughout the country, and particularly in the South, that there will be an alternative this year. The Socialist Workers Party will have a candidate for President and for Vice President. Voters brave enough to face the intimidation of white supremacists deserve the opportunity to cast their ballot — even if only through a write-in — for the candidates advocating a radical change, Farrell Dobbs and Grace Carlson.

The Perfect Negotiator

Aptitude Test for Peace Negotiators:

EXAMINER: "I understand, General, that you wish to apply for the position of peace negotiator."

EXAMINEE: "That is correct."

EXAMINER: "What previous experience have you had that qualifies you for the position of peace negotiator?"

EXAMINEE: "I am a hard-fisted, hard-bitten Army officer with 30 years battle experience."

EXAMINER: "If you are appointed peace negotiator, what policy will you adopt toward the enemy negotiators?"

EXAMINEE: "I will adopt a get-tough policy."

EXAMINER: "Describe the enemy negotiators."

EXAMINEE: "The enemy negotiators are a bunch of fanatics."

EXAMINER: "What type of policy are these fanatical enemy negotiators pursuing?"

EXAMINEE: "They are pursuing a policy of stalling."

EXAMINER: "How are they pursuing it?"

EXAMINEE: "They are deliberately pursuing it."

EXAMINER: "What are the enemy negotiators obviously using the negotiation for?"

EXAMINEE: "They are obviously using the negotiations as a sounding board."

EXAMINER: "What type of sounding board?"

EXAMINEE: "A sounding board for their propaganda."

EXAMINER: "How do you regard the claims of the enemy negotiators?"

EXAMINEE: "I regard the claims of the enemy negotiators as a tissue of falsehoods."

EXAMINER: "Are the enemy negotiators to be trusted?"

EXAMINEE: "Certainly not."

EXAMINER: "What, in your opinion, would be a mutually fair basis for settlement of the points at issue?"

EXAMINEE: "Acceptance of our terms by the enemy."

EXAMINER: "Do you see any possibility of such a settlement?"

EXAMINEE: "None whatsoever."

EXAMINER: "Why not?"

EXAMINEE: "Because of the stubborn, high-handed, stiff-necked stand of the enemy negotiators."

EXAMINER: "In brief, how do you regard these negotiations?"

EXAMINEE: "I regard the negotiations as worse than useless."

EXAMINER: "You pass, General — you're a real peace negotiator."

— Barry Mather in "The Vancouver Sun."

Notes from the News

A COURAGEOUS ARMY SERGEANT wrote a personal and private letter to Gen. Clark, telling him that he thought the repudiation of terms pledged to the Koje prisoners in exchange for the release of captured Gen. Dodd was "among the most repugnant and disgraceful acts to be committed against the decency of man." Gen. Clark sent the ltter from Tokyo and the sergeant was ordered court-martialed for showing disrespect to a superior officer. But Sergeant Dean Chase of Salt Lake City spoke the mind of many a soldier.

* * *

SCREENING OF THREE SEAMEN by the Coast Guard was held unconstitutional June 10 by Federal Judge John C. Brown in Seattle. This was the first ruling of its kind in the country, in cases which involve the arbitrary denial of seamen's right to work. The judge said, "The loyalty-screening proceedings violate the due process of law requirement because the defendants are not advised of the nature of the disloyalty charges against them and are not given a hearing on those charges before adverse findings are made."

* * *

GEN. DANIEL H. HUDELSON, just back from Korea, stated the other day he did not believe the UN forces had the manpower to win against the Koreans and Chinese. He was immediately answered by Army Secretary Pace, who said he had faith in the U.S. armed forces. Hudelson, who originally had said, "I'm not sure why we're even fighting," responded: "Secretary Pace is a fine gentleman, and undoubtedly has access to information not available to a poor broken-down commander just back from Korea. I was speaking only from personal experience."

* * *

TRENTON CASE FRAME-UP VICTIM Collis English, now in the Trenton, N. J., state prison, is in imminent danger of death as a result of a heart condition requiring immediate surgery. In a plea for his release, his mother wrote, "Collis is . . . innocent. The prison is eating away my child's heart. The prison heart specialist, Dr. Harry A. Kaplan says he needs a heart operation and that prison is no place for that. Please write Gov. Driscoll and ask him to pardon my innocent dying son or let him out of prison so he can live."

* * *

CLEVELAND MEAT CUTTERS went on strike a week ago to press their demand for a 40 hour week at no reduction in take-home pay. Average hours range from 45 to 48 hours a week. First break in the strike came when the A & P chain agreed to the 40 hour demand. This is a great step forward for the union. The strike at this writing is still on at Kroger chain and in most stores in the city.

* * *

CICERO COPS FOUND GUILTY in the anti-Negro riot case June 5. This headline in the papers was a departure from the usual whitewash of trigger-happy and race-hating police who have been acquitted time after time. This case, involving the wrecking of Harvey Clark's Cicero home, in which a Jim Crow mob was aided and abetted by cops and city officials, was the center of a determined campaign by labor and liberal organizations to get justice.

* * *

BUT AN ALL-WHITE JURY acquitted an ex-cop murderer who shot and killed two Negroes, Wyatt Blacknall, and his nephew, James. The cop, Stanley LaBenskey entered a bar in Yonkers, notice Negroes drinking there, and asked, "Do you serve Negroes here?" The bartender replied he served anybody who pays and behaves. LaBenskey left the bar and accosted his two victims outside. He started an argument with them and then shot them down in cold blood. His acquittal is a cynical whitewash.

* * *

THE DOUBLE BASS SECTION of the Toronto Symphony orchestra was found to be subversive by the Immigration Department and refused entry into Detroit to play a single engagement that required only a 24-hour stay. As a result, the board of directors of the orchestra dismissed six musicians including two violinists, a flutist, and three double bass players. Some board members have taken the position that the orchestra should not submit to the McCarran Act, and should cancel all United States performances, rather than let the U.S. screen their musicians for "dangerous thoughts."

John Dewey, Civil Liberties Fighter, Dies

By Fred Hart

The death of John Dewey on June 1 removes from American life one of the very few remaining intellectuals who adhered consistently to the liberal creed of unreserved defense, in word and deed, of all the rights of freedom. Dewey, would have been 93 next October.

Liberalism as a major political force in America died long before John Dewey, but he remained true to liberalism to the end of his life.

To give only a few of the many examples of his spirited defense of the rights of men over many decades, he was a member of the Tom Mooney Defense Committee, the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, the Civil Rights Defense Committee (formed to defend the 18 Trotskyist victims of the Smith Act) and the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee.

INVESTIGATED MOSCOW TRIAL CHARGES

At the age of 78, long after most men have retired and at a time when many liberals were kow-towing before Stalinism, Dewey became chairman of the International Commission of Inquiry into the charges made against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow trials. Reporting on the Trotsky hearings in Mexico to a May 9 meeting in New York, Dewey said:

"In the cases of Tom Mooney in San Francisco and Sacco-Vanzetti in Boston, we got used to hearing reactionaries say that these men were dangerous nuisances anyway, so that it was better to put them out of the way whether or not they were guilty of the things for which they were tried. I never thought I would live to see the day when professed liberals would resort to a similar argument. . . For if liberalism means anything, it means complete and courageous devotion to freedom of inquiry."

The Dewey Commission arrived at the verdict that Trotsky was "Not Guilty" of the charges against him, and branded the

JOHN DEWEY

Moscow Trials of the late Thirties as "frameups." This verdict, based upon an exhaustive and objective study of all the trial "evidence," convinced most of world public opinion that the trials were the greatest frameups in history. Stalin's judicial system never recovered from this blow.

OPPOSED PURGING OF TEACHERS

Towards the end of his life, in June 1949, Dewey entered into the fight against the purging of teachers from the schools on grounds of political opinions. He brought his influence as an educator and philosopher to bear in defense of those holding unpopular minority views on the teaching staffs of schools and colleges. It is significant that the school authorities did not pay the slightest attention in this matter to the man widely regarded as the dean of U.S. educational theory. There was only a very small liberal grouping that supported Dewey.

POLEMIC WITH TROTSKY

In 1938, Dewey engaged in a polemic with Leon Trotsky in the pages of the Trotskyist magazine of that time, the **New International**. He objected to Trotsky's presentation of the dialectic interconnection of means and ends in the article "Their Morals and Ours." He took his stand on his "instrumentalist" philosophy: a pragmatic outlook which Trotsky said "has entered upon a period of bankruptcy just as has American capitalism."

Despite his anti-Marxist outlook, Dewey repeatedly made common cause with Marxists on issues of civil liberties, thus showing himself to be true to his own principles of liberalism, principles which are being so baldly betrayed during the present witch hunt by many who continue to call themselves "liberals."

Picket Steel Mill

Pickets circle in front of main gate of the Homestead, Pa., mill of the U.S. Steel Corp. Steelworkers, who streamed out of nation's steel plants within minutes after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision invalidating the steel seizure, say this time they will stay out until they win. Workers are demanding new contract terms including a union shop, and a wage increase.

FRAME-UP TACTIC TRIED BY SEATTLE STALINISTS

SEATTLE, Wash. — Local leaders of the Communist Party have joined the witch hunters with an attack on the Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party that sounds like something lifted out of the Moscow frame-up trials of the thirties. Two articles in the West Coast Stalinist publication, **Peoples World** (May 16 and May 23), level the fantastic accusation that the Seattle SWP sent anonymous obscene literature through the mails to supporters of the Communist and Progressive Parties.

The local imitator of the infamous GPU frame-up technique is Terry Pettus, editor of the Northwest edition of the **Peoples World** and author of the articles. He claims to have "positive . . . irrefutable evidence," photostats of which have have been placed with the Department of Postal Inspection for legal action.

This effort to frame-up the Seattle SWP with a most serious violation of the U.S. postal laws and to sic the postal authorities on working class political opponents of the Stalinists apparently failed, however. The Department referred the matter to the Attorney General's office, which decided not to investigate.

One of the reasons, perhaps, for the Attorney General's decision is the flimsiness of the "evidence." This consists of mimeographed sheets of obscene material, which bear, according to Pettus, an "overprint" from a previous mimeograph job. The overprint, says Pettus, appears in reverse, but is readable, containing lines from a leaflet issued by the Seattle SWP announcing a public meeting for George Clarke, editor of the Marxist theoretical magazine, **Fourth International**, who lectured in Seattle last February.

MOTIVE FOR SMEAR

The motive for this effort at smearing the Seattle Trotskyists is not difficult to find. An ever-growing number of people formerly under Stalinist influence have become favorably impressed with the principled stand of the Socialist Workers Party in opposition to Truman's war in Korea and in defense of civil liberties for the Communist Party and everyone else victimized by the current witch hunt. These people have become critical of the way Stalinist leaders have sabotaged civil liberties cases involving the Socialist Workers Party. **This was particularly true in Seattle a few months ago when the Stalinist leaders in the Northwest sabotaged the court case in which the SWP sought to have the loyalty oath provision for candidates for public office ruled unconstitutional.**

Workers and liberals in the Stalinist periphery realize that the SWP is also on the receiving end of the witch hunt and that a united defense of the right to freedom of thought and speech is on the order of the day. It is this healthy sentiment that the Stalinist leaders seek to counteract by their slanderous frame-up charges. They called in the postal authorities, in all likelihood solely to give their smear effort more weight and to try to make the foul charges seem less incredible.

SAME TACTIC USED BEFORE

This is not the first time the local heads of the Communist Party have resorted to such tactics. Two years ago they issued a complaint against the SWP with the Department of Postal Inspection charging use of the mails to send obscene letters. Their "evidence" then was a clipping from **The Militant** which they alleged was attached to one of the obscene letters. After an investigation, the postal authorities cleared the intended victims of the frame-up charge.

How could the local leaders of the Communist Party hope to make any impression in Seattle labor circles with accusations like these in which the Stalinists conveniently find Trotskyist calling cards in the frame-up "evidence"? It so happens that during the past four or five years individuals connected with the Communist Party, Progressive Party, Socialist Workers Party and other radical groupings have been the victims of anonymous telephone calls, many of them of an obscene nature. Along with these, an anonymous gossip sheet called the **Peoples Whirl** has been mailed to members of the Stalinist periphery. This "publication" is both slanderous and obscene — its principal topic being the alleged private lives of leading C.P. members.

The campaign of anonymous obscenity appears to be the work of a reactionary group specializing in "combatting Communism" which may be working hand in glove with the FBI, or possibly the local "red" squad. The object is to harass individuals thought to hold radical views.

What has been indicated all along is a united effort of all organizations subjected to this annoyance to uncover and expose the wrong doers. The Stalinists, however, have during the last four years followed a directly opposite course. From the outset of the campaign of anonymous calls, letters and circulars, they have accused the Trotskyists of being responsible. This is an instance on a local scale of the technique of the **amalgam** which received its most spectacular use in the Moscow frame-up trials when Stalin's GPU accused Leon Trotsky of entering into a secret "pact" with the Nazis. (This was before Stalin signed a public pact with Hitler.)

CALLS FOR IMPARTIAL COMMISSION

Daniel Roberts, chairman of the Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party, has called for the creation of an impartial commission of inquiry drawn from the labor and liberal movement to hear the charges of Pettus and to review the "evidence." He pledges fullest cooperation in an investigation undertaken by such a body.

Mich. CIO Parley Hits Witch Hunt, Anti-Labor Drive

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., June 4 — The 14th annual convention of the Michigan State CIO, meeting in the midst of the steel crisis, gave strong indications of the increasing concern felt by the labor leaders as the anti-labor offensive grows more threatening.

The mood of the delegates was shown by their enthusiastic reaction to Walter Reuther's report that the UAW-CIO had pledged the steel workers "the total resources of the UAW," stating "we're going to fight with them until they get what they want."

Reuther typified the dismay of the CIO leadership with the de-facto scuttling of the Wage Stabilization Board, exclaiming, "Do you think a self-respecting union will travel 150 days down the WSB road, then be told 'nothing doing' and then start all over and go down the Taft-Hartley road? Unions won't travel both roads."

The UAW president threatened that if industry continues to refuse to abide by wage board recommendations "we won't use it either."

The convention sounded the alarm against the drive to destroy civil liberties. It unanimously endorsed a resolution attacking the Michigan Trucks "police state" Law, and also hit at the newly proposed Smith "Union Seizure" Bill which Reuther said would set up "a totalitarian regime in the field of collective bargaining."

Ironically, the resolution against the Trucks Law was read immediately after Gov. Mennen Williams finished his address to the convention. It was Williams who signed the act making it law. He never mentioned the law in his speech, nor did Reuther.

On political action the state CIO leaders offered nothing new. Although they did not propose an endorsement of either Republican or Democrat candidates in 1952, it was clear they were still tied to the Democrats, who had reneged on their "Fair Deal" promises made in 1948 by Truman.

Reuther, sounding the "keynote" on political action, attacked the rank and file for not being sufficiently aroused to vote.

"The rank and file gives us hell when we're wrong," he said. "We ought to give them hell when they're wrong. Hundreds of thousands don't vote."

But Reuther failed to mention that betrayal of labor by the Democrats and all the so-called "friends" of labor is the real cause for workers' apathy, and their indifference to the leaders' demands to "get out and vote." The workers do not feel they have anyone to vote for.

In spite of the absence of the Ford and other opposition locals, there was still a 25% 'dissenting vote in officer elections. The right wing candidate, August Scholle, was elected to head the State CIO by 3458 to 946 for Steve Pasica, of Dodge Local.

The convention was well covered by **The Militant.** Many delegates read it instead of listening to some of the dull speeches. It was conspicuous on delegates' tables. There was no interference with distributors.

SWP Wins Fight In Michigan to Get on Ballot

(Continued from page 1)

court restraint in slowing down the witch hunters has been the sharply-expressed public opposition to the Trucks law, polarized mainly around the SWP suit.

Among those opposing the law are the CIO, American Civil Liberties Union, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Association of Catholic Trade Unionists and prominent civic leaders.

Although slow to start because of the terrible hysteria that accompanied the signing of the law by Governor Williams, popular opposition is now growing. **More people are beginning to understand that this far-reaching thought-control measure will sooner or later threaten every person with an advanced political idea in his head.**

It not only bars radical parties from the ballot. It seeks to make progressive thinkers testify against themselves and be stoolpigeons against other advocates of social progress under threat of 10 years imprisonment. It makes it easy to frame up strikers on charges of "sabotage" and send them up for long prison terms.

FIGHT TO CONTINUE

That is why the SWP does not consider the fight ended with its important ballot victory. The SWP will continue to press its legal attack on the Trucks law, and will support the Communist Party suit against the law, until this vicious piece of legislation is wiped off the statute books.

Victory in this battle will require a maximum of support from all believers in freedom of thought and social progress throughout the country.

TRUMAN ASKS ANTI-STRIKE POWERS FOR USE IN STEEL

(Continued from page 1)

dictated conditions where the union would have had to capitulate in order to get a contract. **The steelworkers, as we have seen, were in no mood to do this. The union found, in this case as in so many previous cases, that it could not win its demands without a strike.**

Truman continued, asking for seizure powers to halt the strike, and then said:

"Seizure should not, of course, be regarded as a means of determining the issues in dispute between management and the union." How then, will the issues be settled? "The type of legislation I have described will undoubtedly increase the incentives for the parties to settle their differences through bargaining."

DECEPTIVE RHETORIC

How will Truman's legislation do this? His answer is the following: "The companies will face the possibility of receiving something less than their normal profits as just compensation. And the workers will face the prospect of getting less than they think they are entitled to. Indeed, I made this plain on May 3, when I informed the parties that Government changes in wages and working conditions would not be satisfactory to either side."

This is a deceptive bit of rhetoric. The reference to the workers facing "the prospect" of working for inadequate wages is not accurate. That condition is no "prospect." It is a fact. The allusion to the companies facing "the possibility of something less than their normal profits," is totally false. Government seizure never has, and would not in this case, create any such "possibility." Even if the government were to lower dividend payments during a "seizure," this would be nothing but a temporary and demagogic gesture.

Finally, capping the climax, Truman demanded that, if Congress prefers the Taft-Hartley method of stopping the strike and giving all the bargaining advantage to the companies, then it should act quickly.

WANTS QUICK ACTION

"If however," Truman said, "the judgment of the Congress, contrary to mine, is that an injunction of the Taft-Hartley type should be used, there is a quicker way to do so than by appointing a board of inquiry under the Taft-Hartley Act. That would be for the Congress to enact legislation authorizing and directing the President to seek an injunction. . . In any event, I hope the Congress will act quickly." **This final giveaway shows that the "battle" between Truman and Congress is not so sharp as both sides would have the people suppose.**

In the meanwhile, rumors circulated that indicated the union leaders were finally getting fed up with the Government runaround. The N. Y. Times of June 3 reported that unnamed "Union leaders hoped that the Government would allow the contract issues to be settled through a direct test of economic strength." Whether the union heads will hold to this view if Truman should get a court injunction or a seizure order, remains to be seen. Certainly the men in the mills want the strike to continue to victory.